OMRI DAILY DIGEST
No. 19, 26 January 1995

LATVIAN-RUSSIAN BORDER TALKS. Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs, attending border talks with Russia in the east Latvian town of Balvi on 25 January, said Latvia was unlikely to regain the Abrene district, which it lost to Russia after World War II, BNS reports. He noted that even though Russia claims to have no border problems with Latvia, it was advisable to continue talks to prevent Russia unilaterally drawing the border and to try to get back former land and real estate of Latvians in the district. - Saulius Girnius

LITHUANIAN-RUSSIAN RELATIONS. Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Russian Duma's Committee for CIS Affairs and Relations with Compatriots, said Lithuania's planned deportation of four ex-Soviet activists would lead to a "considerable deterioration" of Russian-Lithuanian relations, especially in the economic sphere, BNS reported on 25 January. The four ignored a request to leave Lithuania by 22 January (see OMRI Daily Digest, 20 January 1995). Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska pointed out that the 18 November 1993 agreement granting mutual most-favored-nation trade status made no provisions for its ratification by the respective parliaments. He said Zatulin's suggestion that the Duma would not ratify the agreement if Latvia went ahead with the deportations should not have any bearing on the agreement. - Saulius Girnius